

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year)

20 SEP 2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference

43146-0018

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

PCT/US03/17392

03 June 2003 (03.06.2003)

03 June 2002 (03.06.2002)

Applicant

STEINER-ATLANTIC CORP

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

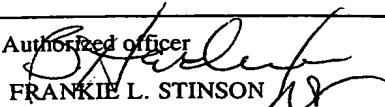
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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 43146-0018 | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/US03/17392 | International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03 June 2003 (03.06.2003) | Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03 June 2002 (03.06.2002) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): D06F 39/02 and US Cl.: 8/158 | | |
| Applicant STEINER-ATLANTIC CORP | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of ___ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☒ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of submission of the demand 23 April 2004 (23.04.2004) | Date of completion of this report 07 September 2004 (07.09.2004) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230 | Authorized officer  FRANKIE L. STINSON Telephone No. (703) 308-0661 |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/17392

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-28 _____ as originally filed
 pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
 pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
 pages 29-36 _____, as originally filed
 pages NONE _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
 pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1/3-3/3 _____, as originally filed
 pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
 pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages NONE _____, as originally filed
 pages NONE _____, filed with the demand
 pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages none
- ☒ the claims, Nos. none
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig none

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/17392

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The question whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been and will not be examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
☒ claims Nos. 8 and 13

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claim Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require international preliminary examination (*specify*):

- ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 8 and 13 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

Claims 8 and 13 are improper multiple dependent claims in that multiple dependent claims cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
☐ no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. _____

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/17392

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims <u>1-4, 6, 7/6, 9-12, 14-18</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>5, 7/5</u> | NO |
| Inventive Step (IS) | Claims <u>1-4, 6, 7/6, 9-12, 14, 15</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>5, 7/5, 16-18</u> | NO |
| Industrial Applicability (IA) | Claims <u>17, 9-12, 14-18</u> | YES |
| | Claims <u>NONE</u> | NO |

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 5 and 7/5 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by either HOEFLIN, HENDRICKSON et al., THURMAN, ANDERSON, OR RIHR. Note that HOEFLIN, HENDRICKSON, THURMAN, ANDERSON, and RIHR each disclose a process for cleaning a textile a drum by placing a absorbent material in the drum, generating relative movement between the drum and pad material, thereby causing a scrubbing action.

Claims 16-18 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by BOCHAN et al. Re claim 16, BOCHAN disclose the drum, the highly absorbent pad material (12) in the drum, means for introducing cleaning and rinsing liquid into the drum and means for generating relative movement between the textile and the pad material thereby causing a scrubbing action on the textile material. Re claim 17, BOCHAN discloses the pad material being placed in the drum. Re claim 18, BOCHAN discloses the combination washer/dryer (see col.1, line10-15).

Claims 1-5, 6, 7/6, 9-12, 14 and 15 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a process for cleaning a textile where the textile is only dampened with liquid, other that spotting, not immersed or soaked with the step of controlling the hydration of the textile by the use of a absorbent pad material.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-18 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-18 have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

NEW CITATIONS

US 2,651,509 A (HYMAN) 08 SEPTEMBER 1953 (08.09.1953).
US 2,927,379 A (TANN) 08 MARCH 1960 (08.03.1960).
US 3,018,562 A (ORR) 30 JANUARY 1962 (30.01.1962).
US 3,146,196 A (BOCHAN et al.) 25 AUGUST 1964 (25.08.1964), see cols. 1-6.
US 3,676,199 A (HEWITT et al.) 11 JULY 1972 (11.07.1972).
US 3,947,971 A (BAUER) 06 APRIL 1976 (06.04.1976).
US 4,014,105 A (FURGAL et al.) 29 MARCH 1977 (29.03.1977), see cols.1-12.
US 5,675,911 A (MOSER) 14 OCTOBER 1997 (14.10.1997), see cols. 1-8.
US 5,907,908 A (CUNANAN et al.) 01 JUNE 1999 (01.06.1999).
US 5,966,831 A (ANDERSON) 19 OCTOBER 1999 (19.10.1999), see cols. 1-6.
US 6,174,577 a (VITORION) 16 JANUARY 2001 (16.01.2001), see cols. 1-4.